



CALPEEK

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ELECTION ANALYSIS

Editor's note: 100% of the precincts have reported, but there are still some 600,000 *absentee ballots* and provisional ballots which have not been counted. Nevertheless, CALPEEK sources think the results will stand in most cases involving Statewide candidates, but there are some real cliffhangers in a couple of House & Legislative contests. Next week we'll do more *election analysis* and will include your favorite CALPEEK column, *Winners & Losers*...

General Overview

● **The GOP Tsunami** - What can you say other than the Republican Party kicked butt and took no prisoners. A massive *blow-out*, a landslide of huge dimension. The GOP tidal wave started in the East, rolled through the South and Midwest and didn't stop in Fresno. The GOP now controls the U.S. Senate & House of Representatives. They also won a majority of governorships in the Big States. Most of the GOP gains in the U.S. Senate were in *open seats*, while in the House GOP gains came at the expense of Demo incumbents...

...Although much can happen between now and the 1996 election, there's just no way to spin this Demo mid-term election disaster other than to say it was a repudiation of President Bill Clinton and the Demo Party, which while in control of both the executive and legislative branches of government, didn't deliver what was promised in the 1992 election -- a new agenda of *change* and an end to gridlock. And the gridlock was as much the fault of the Demos as the GOP...

● **The Issue** - There's just no doubt that *illegal immigration* in the form of Prop. 187 was the one thing which drove the voter turnout upward (perhaps in a conservative direction) and created excitement in what

was once a fairly dull, ho hum Calif. general election...

● **Voter Turnout** - Although the final percentage isn't in as CALPEEK went to press, turnout was about 54.6%, but sources in the SOS's office think that once the 600,000 AV and provisional ballots are counted, the percentage could jump to between 58-60%...

...But the better question is: *who actually voted???* We probably won't have that complete information until our next issue, but from preliminary reports, Hispanic voters did **not** turn out to vote in the numbers that some had projected. For example, in the 22nd Senate District in L.A. (Polanco), turnout was 39.2%. And in the 24th S.D., also in L.A., the turnout was 44.5%...

Statewide Constitutional Offices

● **Governor** - It was a blow out. Gov. Pete Wilson (R) won reelection over Kathleen Brown (D) by a 55% to 41% margin. Wilson's team ran a near flawless campaign which focused on *crime* and *illegal immigration*, the two hot button issues. Brown was perceived by voters to be on the wrong side of both. With regard to her entire campaign, the *blame game* & finger-pointing has already started. The consultant catching most all the heat is Clint Reilly. In the Nov. 7 issue of "Schnur Shots," a regular fax memo to political reporters from Wilson's spin doctor, Dan Schnur, he writes: "*Reilly's Strategy: Take The Money and Run.*" Schnur says Reilly took about \$1.6 million in fees from Brown over the course of the campaign and says Reilly is "the first campaign consultant in political history to have more cash on hand than his campaign." Uhhhh. For those who missed it, Brown was off the air for the last week-end of the campaign and Pres. Bill Clinton was plenty POed when he found out --- after coming to Calif. to

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campaign for Brown. Bottomline: while Clint's rival consultants blame him for mismanaging the campaign, CALPEEK's assessment is that candidate Kathleen Brown shares the blame equally...

- **AG - Incumbent AG Dan Lungren(R)** was nervous about Tom Umberg's hard hitting attack ad, attempting to link Lungren to the murder of Polly Klaas, but it just didn't work and in fact may have caused a backlash. But as sources note, Umberg was down 10-15 points and they rolled the dice. Lungren survived with almost 54% of the vote...

- **Lt. Governor -** There aren't too many insiders who thought Gray Davis(D) would lose this race to Cathie Wright. Wilson tried to help Wright, but it was too little, too late. Overall, some think that Davis may be one of the big winners of 1994. Wilson can't run for governor in 1998 and with Davis as LG, Pete is somewhat tied down nationally. Although sources say Davis won't be a *Mike Curb-type* LG, one source said with tongue in cheek, "Wilson knows that he'd better not go further than Yosemite for vacation."...

- **Controller -** Aside from Gray Davis, the only other Demo running for a *non-partisan post* who won was Kathleen Connell of L.A. She's ahead of Tom McClintock(R) by a 48.5% to 45.9% margin. This race got very little news media attention and Connell avoided the news media and debates like the plague. But it was a smart strategy and it worked because in the end she beat McClintock with a late \$1 million TV buy...

- **Other Down-Ballot Races -** Wilson had coattails, no two ways about it. At this point, we'll have a GOP insurance commissioner (Charles Quackenbush), a GOP treasurer (Matt Fong), and a GOP secretary of state (Bill Jones). Fong won with solid Demo *cross-over support* from Roberti Demos who were still mad at Phil Angelides for his hard hitting primary campaign. Jones was a coattail candidate (Acting SOS Tony Miller had trouble raising even a small war chest), while Quackenbush raised much more money than State Sen. Art Torres(D). The only other Demo to win was Delaine Eastin for post of Supt. of Public Instruction. She mashed Maureen DiMarco by a 56% to 44% margin...

U.S. Senate

...U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) is ahead of Michael Huffington(R) by about 123,610 votes with 600,000 absentee ballots statewide yet to be counted. But most sources think that should be enough for DiFi to hold the seat. DiFi's campaign was almost totally defensive, from start to finish, warding off TV attack after TV attack from Huffington, who spent somewhere between \$27-30 million of his own money - a record which isn't likely to be broken anytime soon. If DiFi had it to do all over again, she'd probably spend less time on the floor of the Senate and more time on the phone, dialing for dollars. What saved her? She owes L.A. Mayor Dick Riordan big time, as well as L.A. Co. Sheriff Sherman Block and some other key Republicans who helped her get enough GOP support to win reelection. She also owes the news media, because without their help in exposing Mr. & Mrs. H, he might have won...

U.S. House of Representatives

...Not one GOP incumbent House member was defeated in 1994. Thus in Calif., freshman Ken Calvert(R-43), once considered *the most vulnerable House member in the country*, rather easily defeated Demo Mark Takano of Riverside. As for the Demos, at least 3 were knocked off: Hamburg(D-1), Lehman(D-19) and Schenk(D-49). A fourth Demo, Jane Harman of L.A.'s 36th C.D. is trailing Susan Brooks of Rancho Palos Verdes by 93 votes. But since Harman did an extensive VBM program, some think it is possible she might win because late absentee ballots may break in her favor. Demos who held on to win included Vic Fazio(D-3), Tony Beilenson(D-24) and George Brown(D-42). The only GOPer in a tight race on our watch list, Andrea Seastrand of San Luis Obispo, won the 22nd C.D. over Walter Capps by about 1,000 votes...

California Legislative Contests

...**State Senate -** Given the magnitude of the GOP landslide on Nov. 8, many insiders think Demo Senate Leader Bill Lockyer is a winner because he only lost one seat and thus remains as Senate President Pro Tem. Demo Senators Greene, Dills and Peace won reelection despite some tense moments. But incumbent Dan McCorquodale(D-Modesto) was taken out by GOPer Dic Monteith by a 49.8% to 47% margin (\$700-Gs in late money from the GOP). The McC lost, plus the loss of

36th S.D. open seat to Ray Haynes of Murrieta put the Demos down 2. But Jim Costa of Fresno knocked off incumbent Phil Wyman(R) in the 16th S.D. to salvage the election for Lockyer. Costa won 51% to 49%. So Demos still hold a majority, 21-to-17 with 2 independents...

...**State Assembly** - For Assembly GOP Leader Jim Brulte, Nov. 8th will be a night to remember. On Nov. 7th the assembly lineup was 47 Demo and 33 GOPers. It is now 40-40, with one GOP vacancy coming up (Mountjoy moves to the 29th S.D. after winning the special). That would seem to suggest that Demo Speaker Willie Brown might have a 1-vote edge. But Mountjoy will stay put until this is settled. And there is at least 1 Demo incumbent, Betty Karnette of Long Beach, who holds only a 64 vote lead over Steve Kuykendall(R), with lots of absentees outstanding...

...Not one incumbent GOP Assemblymember lost, even though at least 3-4 were targets. Among the Demo incumbents to bite the dust were 80th A.D. Caucus Chair Julie Bornstein (to Jim Battin); 77th A.D.'s Tom Connolly (to Steve Baldwin); 56th A.D.'s Bob Epple (to Phil Hawkins); and surprise loser, 25th A.D.'s Margaret Snyder (to George House). Had Bornstein won reelection, she might have been in line to succeed Willie Brown as Speaker. She really got crushed, 56.3% to 43.7%...

...The "open seat" *upset/watch list* loses suffered by Demos included Lily Cervantes to Peter Frusetta(R) in the 28th A.D.; Bryn Allison Batrich to Brian Setenich(R) in the 30th A.D.; and Mike Metzler to Jim Morrissey(R) in Orange Co.'s 69th A.D...

...What does all this mean? It's a little early, but our best guess is that if Demos hold the 40-40 margin, Brown may try to get a GOP member, such as Paul Horcher of Diamond Bar, to jump ship. What if Willie goes to Horcher and tells him, "You're my guy for Speaker. Here are 40 votes." Sources think Horcher will take the deal. Of course, all this depends on Karnette holding on. It also depends on some absentees in others Assembly races. We'll keep you posted...

Initiative Measures

- **Prop. 187** - There hasn't been an initiative as hot as

this one in many a year. Wilson and the GOP rode it to victory Nov. 8, but long term political fallout has yet to be determined because this measure may have moved *new immigrant voters* away from the Calif. Republican Party. It's too early to tell, but that was certainly the fear of Republicans such as Jack Kemp, Bill Bennett, Ron Unz and William Kristol. The irony is that 187 could have been defused as a hot issue had the Clinton Admin. answered Gov. Wilson's call for help with the illegals coming over the border. Had Operation Gatekeeper been put into effect in the early spring instead of September, there's no telling what would have happened...

...As it turned out, YES on 187, with little money (but lots of help from Wilson and a few others) won by a 59% to 41% margin. The NO on 187 forces did a great job with free media and won almost every major newspaper endorsement in Calif., but it's polling must have been flawed. The last tracking poll (ending Nov. 7) showed 187 deadlocked at 49-49. Why the big difference? Those being polled probably lied (it's sometimes called "the hidden vote."). Another possible reason for the overwhelming win was that perhaps some of those who were leaning *against* had second thoughts after seeing those demonstrations on TV, with nothing but a sea of Mexican flags. That really hurt the NO campaign...

- **Prop. 188** - Voters aren't stupid. And when they found out that Prop. 188 (Smoking & Tobacco Products. Regulations.) was sponsored by Philip Morris, Inc., the world's largest tobacco company, they voted it down. NO got 70.5%...

- **Prop. 184** - The "3 Strikes" won big, despite the editorials against it as a flawed initiative and law. The YES side got 71.8%...

- **Prop. 186** - The Single Payer Health Care Plan Initiative was doomed from the beginning. The YES side, known as Californians for Health Security, failed to raise a sufficient warchest to fend off attacks that followed almost immediately after 186 qualified. Thus the NO side (Taxpayers Against the Govt. Takeover) defined the issue very early on...

[Continued on Next Page]

Local Elections

● **DA Races - Sacto Co.** DA Steve White was bounced from office by Dep. DA Jan Scully, 55% to 45%. Not a shock, as White was in trouble before the primary. San Diego Co.'s new DA is Paul Pfingst, who defeated Muni Court Judge Larry Stirling. San Bernardino Co.'s new DA is Dennis Stout, who beat San Bernardino City Atty. Jim Penman, 60% to 40%. In Mariposa Co., the new DA is Christine Johnson, who beat Asst. DA Frank McNally, 3774 to 2826. It's an upset. And finally, in Tuolumne Co., Acting DA Michael Knowles is trailing former Dep. DA Nina Dean by 230 votes. We'll update when the results are final...

● **S.F. Board of Supes** - Some hot news. Remember how we said that Sup. Annemarie Conroy looked like a winner for reelection to the Board of Supes? In what is being called "slate card revenge," the S.F. Co. Demo Central Cmt. and several other slates urged voters not to reelect Conroy. It worked. Sup. Kevin Shelley got the most votes, followed by Supes. Carol Migden and Susan Leal. New Bd. members are Tom Ammiano and Mabel Teng. What does this mean? The board is now much more liberal than before. Conroy was a GOPer. FYI: Conroy was a Clint Reilly client, while Teng was a client of John Whitehurst. Hummmm...

● **Oakland Mayor's Race** - The winner, incumbent Mayor Elihu Harris over businessman Ted Dang...

● **S.F.'s Measure "O"** - Measure "O" to add a \$1 per sq. ft. annual tax on commercial real estate, with the taxes going to local transportation, was defeated, 55% to 45%. A nice win for Solem & Assoc....

● **Orange Co. Bd. of Supes** - Newest member of the board is Huntington Beach Councilman Jim Silva, who defeated HB Mayor Linda Moulton Patterson by a 54% to 45% margin...

● **The El Toro Initiative** - Perhaps one of the more controversial local initiatives, Measure A calls for the conversion of El Toro Marine Corps Air Station to a commercial airport. It won, 51.1% YES to 48.9% NO...

● **Card Club Madness** - In the tiny city of Albany, north of Berkeley, voters approved Measure F to allow

the construction of a card club at Golden Gate Fields Racetrack. More next week. Stay tuned...

VICA TO HOST BUSINESS FORECAST CONF. DEC. 2.
The Valley Industry & Commerce Assn.(VICA) will host its 6th annual Business Forecast Conference from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Dec. 2, Sheraton Universal Hotel, Universal City. Sponsors are GTE, L.A. Daily News and Pacific Bell. Cost \$100. For info (818) 888-2228...

CALIF. DLC TO HOLD CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO.
The Calif. Democratic Leadership Council(DLC) will hold its 2nd annual State conference on Dec. 10 at the Doubletree Hotel at Horton Plaza in San Diego. Speakers include Nat'l DLC chair Al From, L.A. Times pollster John Brennan, Sacto BEE political columnist Dan Walters, Demo controller candidate Kathleen Connell and Elaine Kamarck, sr. policy adviser to Vice Pres. Al Gore. For info, call (619)522-0195...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● S.F. based Solem & Assoc. has promoted Barbara J. French to vp/acct. group mgr.; and Mark Mosher & Kira Sturney Keane both move up to Sr. AEs...

● Heather McPherson and Julie Shioshita have been named as development associates by the CA League of Conservation Voters...

● The Sacto office of Nelson & Lucas Communications has been named one of 5 top PR firms in the Sacto area by The Business Journal...

● DC-based Kamber Group promotes David White to VP...

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